



**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: LAWRENCE BUFORD HAMMET, II, BPR #13816
CONTACT: KEVIN D. BALKWILL
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 20, 2021

NASHVILLE LAWYER CENSURED

On January 20, 2021, Lawrence Buford Hammet, II, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Hammet withdrew disputed funds from his client trust account and paid himself a fee which exceeded the amount that his client alleged was agreed upon at the commencement of the representation. The client filed a civil suit against Mr. Hammet which was appealed after trial. The Court of Appeals found that Mr. Hammet failed to keep the disputed funds in his client trust account until the dispute was resolved and that Mr. Hammet improperly calculated his fees which were unreasonable. The Court of Appeals awarded judgment to the client in the amount of \$67,335.69 and remanded the case to the trial court for a determination of pre-judgment interest. The trial court subsequently awarded pre-judgment interest to the client in an additional amount of \$22,092.10.

By these acts, Lawrence Buford Hammet, II has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.5 (fees) and 1.15(e) (safekeeping property) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations. As a condition of the Public Censure, Mr. Hammet shall satisfy the judgments against him on or before January 19, 2021.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Hammet 40850-5 rel.doc